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# Message Text

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ACTION FBOE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 A-01 SY-05 SSO-00 SCA-01 /020 W
---------- 022265
O 181408Z SEP 75
FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6718
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 MONTREAL 1516

ALSO FOR FBO, EUR/EX, SY

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ABLD, AFSP, CA
SUBJ: FLOOR PLANS FOR PROPOSED RENTAL SPACE, MONTREAL

REF: DEPT OM, 9/8/75 AND PREVIOUS

1. WILL ENDEAVOR ACCOMMODATE DEPT'S SUGGESTIONS TO POST'S NEEDS AND WILL FORWARD REVISED PLANS AS SOON AS DRAWN. IN PARTICULAR AGREE BEST POSSIBLE INITIAL IMPRESSION IMPORTANT, THOUGH CANNOT AVOID VIEW DEPT MAY HAVE MISREAD SOME OF PROPORTIONS ON DRAFT PLANS. ALSO BELIEVE SOME OF POST'S NEEDS NOT PROPERLY SET FORTH IN PAST IN INTEREST OF SHORT MESSAGES; AT RISK OF LONG MESSAGE THIS TIME, FOLLOWING ARE PRESENT PROBLEMS WE HOPE TO CORRECT IN PROPOSED SPACE:

A. DUE NECESSITY INTERVIEW OVER 90 PERCENT OF NIV APPLICANTS, IT ALSO NECESSARY THEY FILL OUT FORMS AT OFFICE, SEE RECEPTIONIST FOR REVIEW/CORRECTION OF FORMS FOR COMPLETENESS, WAIT FOR RETURN OF PASSPORT AND APPLICATION WHILE LOOKOUT CHECKED BY COMPUTER, THEN WAIT FOR INTERVIEWING OFFICER. IN PRESENT LOCATION, DUE BOTH INSUFFICIENCY AND INFLEXIBILITY OF SPACE, THIS LEADS TO THOSE WAITING FOR ONE PURPOSE BEING COMMINGLED WITH THOSE WAITING FOR A DIFFERENT ONE, WITH INEVITABLE RESULTANT CONFUSION AND DIMINISHED EFFICIENCY.
B. WAITING ROOM FOR IMMIGRANTS IS SIMILARLY INADEQUATE BOTH IN SIZE AND CONFIGURATION.
C. COMPUTER OPERATOR, VARIOUS MEMBERS OF IV UNIT, AND EXECU-
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TIVE ASSISTANT TO CONSULAR SECTION CHIEF--WHO ANSWERS INUMERABLE

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CALLS FROM THE U.S. DAILY--NEED READY ACCESS TO FILE ROOM. UNFORTUNATELY IT IS ON SECOND FLOOR, GOODLY DISTANCE FROM ALL THOSE FOLKS, ADDING TO SLOWDOWN OF OPERATION.

D. WAITING SPACE (IT COULD NOT BE CALLED "ROOM") FOR U.S. CITIZENS IS DISGRACEFULLY SMALL, ALMOST NON-EXISTENT, BEING AN AREA BETWEEN THREE AND FOUR FEET IN DEPTH BETWEEN DOOR AND COUNTER. IT IMPOSSIBLE TO SIT IN THERE AND APPLICANTS FREQUENTLY RESORT, IN LIEU OF STANDING, TO SITTING ON CHAIR IN SMALL CENTRAL ENTRY TO BUILDING NEXT TO TELEPHONE OPERATORS.

E. COMMERCIAL LIBRARY IS ALSO TOO SMALL.

F. THERE IS NO ROOM FOR STAFF MEETINGS OR OTHER GATHERINGS EXCEPT THE CONSUL GENERAL'S OFFICE NOR FOR VISITING OFFICERS (E.G., INSPECTORS) NOR CONVERTIBLE FOR VIP SPACE DURING UP-COMING OLYMPICS.

G. DUE FACT CITIZENSHIP UNIT IN DIFFERENT BUILDING FROM VISA UNITS, WE HAVE TWO SUB-CASHIERS, WHICH BAD FROM CONTROL STAND-POINT. ONE PURPOSE IN CENTRALIZING ALL CONSULAR FUNCTIONS WAS TO REDUCE TO ONE CASHIER. LATTER MUST BE CENTRALLY LOCATED NEAR BOTH CITIZENSHIP AND IV UNITS, AS ALMOST ALL SUCH SERVICES REQUIRE FEES WHEREAS RELATIVELY FEW NIV APPLICANTS MUST PAY FOR VISAS.

2. FOLLOWING COMMENTS RE DEPT'S SUGGESTIONS MUST BE READ IN LIGHT OF ABOVE.

3. GROUND FLOOR:

A. BELIEVE INGRESS/EGRESS CONTROL PROBLEMS WILL BE MINIMAL BECAUSE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES GUARD OUTSIDE AND CONGEN HAS CONTRACT GUARD INSIDE OFFICE. DESK FOR LATTER NOW SHOWN AT FOOT OF STEPS BUT IN FINAL PLAN WOULD BE JUST INSIDE DOOR, SOME TWENTY-ODD FEET BEYOND TOP OF STAIRS. (CONGEN MUST RENT SPACE ABOVE/BEYOND STAIRS ABOVE CONSULAR SECTION.) IN RE RECEPTIONIST SPACE INSIDE FRONT DOOR, WOULD NOTE WE HAVE NO RECEPTIONIST POSITION AT POST (GUARDS SERVE THIS FUNCTION) AND IF ESSENTIAL HAVE SUCH A POSTING WE WOULD REQUIRE ADDITIONAL POSITION OR ADDITIONAL GUARD. QUESTION OF MAKING TWO PUBLIC DOORS KNOWN TO THE PUBLIC DOES NOT RAISE "DIFFICULTIES" IN OUR MINDS. THE FRONT DOOR WOULD BE OUR ADDRESS. AS EVERY VISA OFFICER KNOWS (REPEAT KNOWS), THERE IS AN EXTREMELY RELIABLE JUNGLE-DRUM SYSTEM THAT OPERATES AMONG VISA APPLICANTS AND, TO QUOTE CHIEF OF CONSULAR





SECTION, WITHIN WEEK OF FIRST APPLICANT USING INSIDE DOOR ALMOST ALL WILL. THERE MUST, OF COURSE, BE TWO DOORS TO COMPLY WITH FIRE REGULATIONS. IF IT IS DEEMED ESSENTIAL--UNDERSCORE ESSENTIAL--(DESPITE FACT WE BELIVE IT HIGHLY UNDESIRABLE) TO CHANNEL ALL APPLICANTS THROUGH FRONT DOOR AND IF SUITABLE FLOW CAN BE ARRANGED, THE INSIDE DOOR COULD BE DESIGNED FOR EGRESS ONLY. THIS WILL ENTAIL BUILDING PUBLIC TOILET FACILITIES, WITH ATTENDANT SECURITY AND SANITARY PROBLEMS, INSIDE CONSEC AS

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APPLICANTS WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO GO TO BUILDING FACILITIES AND
RETURN AS WE HAD PLANNED.

B. INSIDE ENTRY LOBBY ABOVE STAIRS IS AT LEAST TEN FEET WIDE,
COULD BE WIDER. INSIDE LOWER CONSEC AREA, IT IS FIVE, NOT, REPEAT
NOT, TWO FEET FROM EDGE OF STEPS TO DIRECTLY-FACING WALL AND
ROUGHLY SEVEN-AND-HALF TO EIGHT FEET ON EITHER SIDE OF STAIRS.
AREA TOO SHALLOW TO RAMP STRAIGHT DOWN. HOWEVER, THOSE EIGHT
FEET TO WALL BY TEN FT PLANNED STEPS COULD BE BUILT UP TO TOP
LEVEL ALL WAY TO WALL WITH RAMPS GOING DOWN IN EACH DIRECTION AT
SUITABLE SLOPE. THIS MIGHT EVEN DIMINISH POSSIBILITY OF APPLI-
CANTS GETTING IN WRONG TRAFFIC STREAM. HADICAPPED DO ALSO HAVE
ALTERNATIVE OF FRONT DOOR WHICH HAS NO STEPS.

C. REF DEALS WITH PLAN SUBMITTED AUGUST 19. BELIEVE LATER
SUBMISSION SHOULD HAVE OVERCOME SOME OF DIFFICULTIES ENVISIONED.
AS INDICATED PARA ONE ABOVE, EFFORT HERE IS TO PREVENT THE CHAOS
THAT RESULTS FROM THE RELATIVELY FEWER VISITORS TO THE CITIZEN-
SHIP AND IV UNITS BEING CAUGHT UP IN THE MOB SCENE IN THE NIV
UNIT. MOREOVER, VISA OFFICE AND SCA HAVE LONG STRONGLY RECOMMEND-
ED SEPARATE IV/NIV WAITING ROOMS TO AVOID SUCH CONFUSION; ALL
WOULD CONSIDER IT VERY BAD PUBLIC RELATIONS TO TIE AMCITS IN WITH
EITHER. NOT LEAST, AS NOTED FROM NIV PROCEDURAL DISCUSSION PARA
ONE, CIRCULATION IN THAT UNIT MUST BE DISIGNED TO HAVE APPLICANTS
GO IN AS STRAIGHT A LINE AS POSSIBLE, FROM DOOR TO COUNTERS FOR
PREPARATION OF FORMS, TO RECEPTIONIST, PAST COMPUTER FOR RETURN
OF PASSPORT AND APPLICATION, TO INTERVIEW COUNTERS, AND BACK OUT
WITHOUT CROSSING LINES OF THOSE STILL WAITING. WOULD NOTE IN
THIS CONNECTION THAT "WAITING ROOM" AS USED IN NIV UNIT NOT
REALLY SYNONYMOUS WITH WAITING ROOMS FOR IVS AND AMCITS. IN
LATTER TWO, PEOPLE LITERALLY SIT DOWN AND WAIT FOR SERVICES TO
BE PERFORMED. IN FORMER, PEOPLE ARE ON THEIR FEET MOVING
CONSTANTLY FROM POINT TO POINT AND AREA COULD MORE PROPERLY BE
DESCRIBED AS OPERATIONAL FACILITY. THUS, NO MATTER WHERE IN
CONSEC NIV UNIT LOCATED, BELIEVE STRAIGHT LINE OPERATION ESSENTIAL.
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INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

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D. DO NOT KNOW SPECIFICALLY WHAT MEANT BY "LARGE STORE FRONT TYPE" WINDOWS. THESE ARE CEILING HIGH, FIVE-FOOT-WIDE PANELS SEPARATED BY ALUMINUM MULLIONS. REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICER PLANS COAT THEM WITH MYLAR AND HAS TOLD CONGEN HE NOT CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR SECURITY. ONE PURPOSE IN SELECTING THIS SPACE, AS AGAINST CONCOURSE ON SHERBROOKE, WAS BECAUSE OF SENSE OF AIRINESS SUCH WINDOWS WOULD GIVE IN OFFICES WITH LARGE CROWDS AND FACT MOST EMPLOYEES COULD BENEFIT FROM THEM.

E. FINGERPRINTING TABLE WOULD BE AGAINST BACK OR SIDE WALL OF IV SCREENING UNIT. WE DO NOT HAVE OR NEED WASH-UP FACILITIES AS WE USE FOAM CLEANER.

F. OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF MAIL IS FOR CONSULAR SECTION. BELIEVE IT MORE PRACTICAL TO BE ON FLOOR WITH BUILDING MAIL FACILITY AND CARRY MINIMUM CORRESPONDENCE UPSTAIRS THAN ALL OF IT UPSTAIRS AND BULK BACK DOWN AGAIN.

G. PLANS AND COST ESTIMATES HAVE INCLUDED 800 SQ. FT--WHICH WE MAY INCREASE SLIGHTLY--FOR STORAGE. AS CLEANING SERVICE IS INCLUDED IN LEASE, JANITOR CLOSETS ARE RESPONSIBILITY OF BUILDING MANAGEMENT. TO EXTENT WE FURNISH SUCH SERVICE ON GROUND FLOOR, SPACE IS AVAILABLE FOR SUCH SUPPLIES IN REPRODUCTION ROOM. IF WE ALSO FURNISH CHAR FORCE IN TOWER (WHICH FOR SECURITY MIGHT BE PREFERABLE), SPACE CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE THERE TOO IF BUILDING CLOSETS CLOSED TO OUR CONTRACTOR.

H. BELIEVE IT COMPLETELY OUT-OF-QUESTION TO LOCATE VISA SECTION ON UPPER FLOOR FOR SEVERAL REASONS. WE WOULD HAVE LESS, NOT MORE, SECURITY AS WE COULD NOT SCREEN PEOPLE UNTIL THEY ARRIVED IN OUR OFFICE ON UPPER FLOOR RATHER THAN AT ENTRY. ALSO IT UNLIKELY BUILDING MANAGEMENT WOULD ACCEPT THIS PROPOSITION AS IT IS ONE THING TO LEASE SPACE INTO/OUT OF WHICH LARGE NUMBERS
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OF PEOPLE CAN FLOW WITHOUT DISTURBING TENANTS AND SOMETHING QUITE DIFFERENT TO CONTEMPLATE HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE CLOGGING THEIR ELEVATORS AND DISTURBING OTHERS EVERY DAY, WHICH OTHER TENANTS WOULD NOT TOLERATE AFTER SHORT PERIOD. EXPERIENCE AT OTHER POSTS HAS SHOWN THAT APPLICANTS DO TEND IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES TO GET LOST AND WANDER INTO OTHER OFFICES. NOT LEAST, THERE IS NOT SUFFICIENT SPACE ON ONE FLOOR FOR TOTAL CONGEN REQUIREMENTS.

4. UPPER FLOOR:

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A. RECEPTION ROOM CAN BE ENLARGED AND DOUBLE DOORS ARRANGED. HAD NOT PLANNED ON CLOSED DOORS TO INSIDE CORRIDOR BUT HAVE NO OBJECTION.

B. WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING WHAT ADVANTAGE TO BE GAINED FROM DOUBLING SIZE OF VAULT. COMMUNICATION UNIT NOW OCCUPIES SLIGHTLY MORE THAN 500 SQ. FT OF WHICH SIZABLE PROPORTION WASTE SPACE. AGAIN, IF DEEMED POSITIVELY ESSENTIAL, SPACE CAN BE ENLARGED BUT SERIOUSLY DOUBT NECESSITY TO GO TO ONE THOUSAND SQ. FT. UNIT CONTAINS ROUGHLY FIFTY FEET OF EQUIPMENT TOTAL, NOT ONLY ELECTRONIC AND FILES BUT ALSO DESKS, TABLES, BOOKCASE, ETC., WHICH SHOULD OR COULD BE PLACED NEXT TO A WALL; SOME OF THESE WOULD BE BETTER ELSEWHERE. THERE ARE MINIMUM SEVENTY-FIVE TO EIGHTY FEET OF WALL SPACE IN PROPOSED VAULT AND LOTS OF SPACE IN MIDDLE FOR THOSE THINGS THAT COULD MORE PROPERLY NOT BE ON WALL.

C. CUSTOMS SECTION CHIEF SAYS HE DOES NOT REPEAT NOT EXPECT ANOTHER OFFICER AND SPACE IS THEREFORE SUFFICIENT.

D. COMMERCIAL SECTION DOES CONSIST OF ONE AMERICAN AND TWO FSLES, ONE OF WHOM COMMERCIAL ASSISTANT WHOSE OFFICE ADJOINS THAT OF OFFICER AND OTHER OF WHOM IS COMMERCIAL LIBRARIAN WHOSE OFFICE IS IN LIBRARY FOR ASSISTANCE TO PUBLIC. IDENTIFYING "CML" UNFORTUNATELY OMITTED ON FLOOR PLAN IN LIBRARY SPACE.

E. CHIEF OF DEA DISTRICT OFFICE MONTREAL SAYS HE HAS FREQUENT NEED FOR SPACE FOR TWELVE TO FOURTEEN PEOPLE, HENCE REQUEST FOR CONFERENCE TABLE ROOM HIS OFFICE. WILLING TO FOREGO THIS ONLY IF CONGEN CONFERENCE ROOM RETAINED AND AVAILABLE TO HIM (WHICH IT WOULD BE).

F. INS SECTION: ACTING DISTRICT DIRECTOR IN ST. ALBANS HAS TOLD CONSUL GENERAL THEY NEED ONLY ONE OFFICE, 15 BY 15, AS THEY DO NOT USUALLY USE OFFICE FOR INTERVIEWING BUT FOR FILES AND PAPERWORK. POST QUITE WILLING ALLOT MORE OR DIFFERENT IF CENTRAL OFFICE WISHES CHANGE THIS.
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G. USIS WILL CONSIST OF BPAO AND TWO, NOT THREE, ASSISTANTS. UNDERSTAND AGENCY HAS ALREADY MADE KNOWN RATIONALE FOR SCREENING ROOM. CONSUL GENERAL ALSO EXPECTS USE THAT ROOM FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSES (AND OTHERS, IF CONGEN CONFERENCE ROOM MUST BE SACRIFICED).

H. AS NOTED ABOVE, LIBRARY IS NOT A "POST LIBRARY." IT IS COMMERCIAL LIBRARY AND IN NO WAY COULD BE USED FOR PURPOSES FOR WHICH CONFERENCE ROOM INTENDED. MOREOVER, IT NEEDS TO BE ENLARGED FROM WHAT IT NOW IS, AND DOUBT THAT MAKING IT SMALLER THAN PROPOSED WOULD SAVE RIGHT KIND OF SPACE TO BE USEFUL FOR OTHER PURPOSES. WOULD NOTE USERS WILL (AT LEAST COULD) EXIT BY EMERGENCY DOOR DIRECT TO ELEVATORS.

I. AS CONFERENCE ROOM WAS INTENDED, INTER ALIA, TO SERVE AS "OVERFLOW OFFICE," POST CERTAINLY HAS NO OBJECTION TO ADDING SOME EXTRA OFFICES FOR GROWTH PURPOSES. WOULD RECOMMEND, HOWEVER, THEY BE ADJOINING AND PARTITIONED BY SLIDING DOORS SO THAT THEY

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COULD BE OPENED UP INTO LARGE AREA WHEN SUCH IS NEEDED AS FORESEE NO PROSPECTS FOR ADDITIONAL NON-CONSULAR-SECTION PERSONNEL IN NEAR FUTURE.

5. SPECIFIC DATA REQUESTED UNDER "RECOMMENDATIONS" WILL BE FURNISHED SEPARATELY.

6. CONSUL GENERAL WILL BE GLAD TO VISIT DEPT TO DISCUSS ALL PARTICULARS WITH FBO, EUR/EX AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED OFFICERS WITH EYE TOWARD SHORTENING TIME LAPSE AND GETTING BENEFIT SPECIFIC REARRANGEMENT SUGGESTIONS FROM ARCHITECT. MEANWHILE, HOPE THIS WILL ADD TO PERSPECTIVES WITHIN WHICH WE NEED TO RESOLVE THE MESHING OF OUR VARYING REQUIREMENTS.
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# Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994
**Channel Indicators:** n/a
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED
**Concepts:** n/a
**Control Number:** n/a
**Copy:** SINGLE
**Draft Date:** 18 SEP 1975
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960
**Decaption Note:**
**Disposition Action:** n/a
**Disposition Approved on Date:**
**Disposition Authority:** n/a
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a
**Disposition Comment:**
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960
**Disposition Event:**
**Disposition History:** n/a
**Disposition Reason:**
**Disposition Remarks:**
**Document Number:** 1975MONTRE01516
**Document Source:** CORE
**Document Unique ID:** 00
**Drafter:** n/a
**Enclosure:** n/a
**Executive Order:** N/A
**Errors:** N/A
**Film Number:** D750324-0069
**From:** MONTREAL
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a
**Image Path:**
**ISecure:** 1
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750940/aaaabjae.tel
**Line Count:** 291
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
**Office:** ACTION FBOE
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a
**Page Count:** 6
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a
**Previous Classification:** n/a
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a
**Reference:** n/a
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED
**Review Authority:** RowellE0
**Review Comment:** n/a
**Review Content Flags:**
**Review Date:** 17 JUN 2003
**Review Event:**
**Review Exemptions:** n/a
**Review History:** RELEASED <17 JUN 2003 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <05 FEB 2004 by RowellE0>
**Review Markings:**

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**Review Media Identifier:**
**Review Referrals:** n/a
**Review Release Date:** n/a
**Review Release Event:** n/a
**Review Transfer Date:**
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a
**Secure:** OPEN
**Status:** NATIVE
**Subject:** FLOOR PLANS FOR PROPOSED RENTAL SPACE, MONTREAL
**TAGS:** ABLD, AFSP, CA
**To:** STATE
**Type:** TE
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006